

**Preliminary Amendment filed July 21, 2005
U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/417,705**

REMARKS:

Claims 16-23 are currently being considered, all of which have been newly added. Claims 10 and 13-15 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer as to their subject matter. No new matter has been introduced.

Claims 10 and 13-15 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as obvious over USP 6,661,452 (**Nishikawa**) in view of USP 6,295,596 (**Hirabayashi**) and USP 5,835,164 (**Kanai**). Claims 10 and 13-15 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer as to their subject matter.

Thus, Applicant respectfully submits that this rejection should be withdrawn.

Claims 16-23 have been newly added. Although the Office Action mailed April 21, 2005 did not address these claims 16-23, not hitherto available to the Examiner, Applicant desires to make a record as to why **Nishikawa**, **Hirabayashi**, and **Kanai**, alone or in combination, do not describe, teach, or suggest the combination of features set forth in these claims 16-23.

Nishikawa, **Hirabayashi**, and **Kanai**, alone or in combination, fail to describe, teach, or suggest the following combination of features set forth in claim 16: "A digital camera, comprising: an imaging device having an imaging surface which generates an image signal corresponding to an optical image of an objective scene; a processor for subjecting the image signal generated by said

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imaging surface to signal processes including a thinning process so as to create processed image data at a rate of one screen per a first time period; a memory having a single input/output port; a writer for writing to said memory the processed image data output from said processor; a reader for reading the processed image data stored in said memory at a rate of one screen per a second time period which is shorter than the first time period; a displayer for displaying an image based on the processed image data read out by said reader; a first instructor for instructing said processor to suspend the thinning process at a time of accepting a recording operation; and a recorder for recording to a record medium the processed image data stored in said memory in response to the recording operation.”

Claim 16 is the base claim for claims 17-23.

Thus, in view of the above, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 16-23 are not described, taught, or suggested by **Nishikawa, Hirabayashi, and Kanai**, alone or in combination.

In view of the aforementioned amendments and accompanying remarks, all claims currently being considered are in condition for allowance, which action, at an early date, is requested.

If, for any reason, it is felt that this application is not now in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact Applicant's undersigned attorney at the telephone number indicated below to arrange for an interview to expedite the disposition of this case.

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In the event that this paper is not timely filed, Applicant respectfully petitions for an appropriate extension of time. Please charge any fees for such an extension of time and any other fees which may be due with respect to this paper, to Deposit Account No. 01-2340.

Respectfully submitted,

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